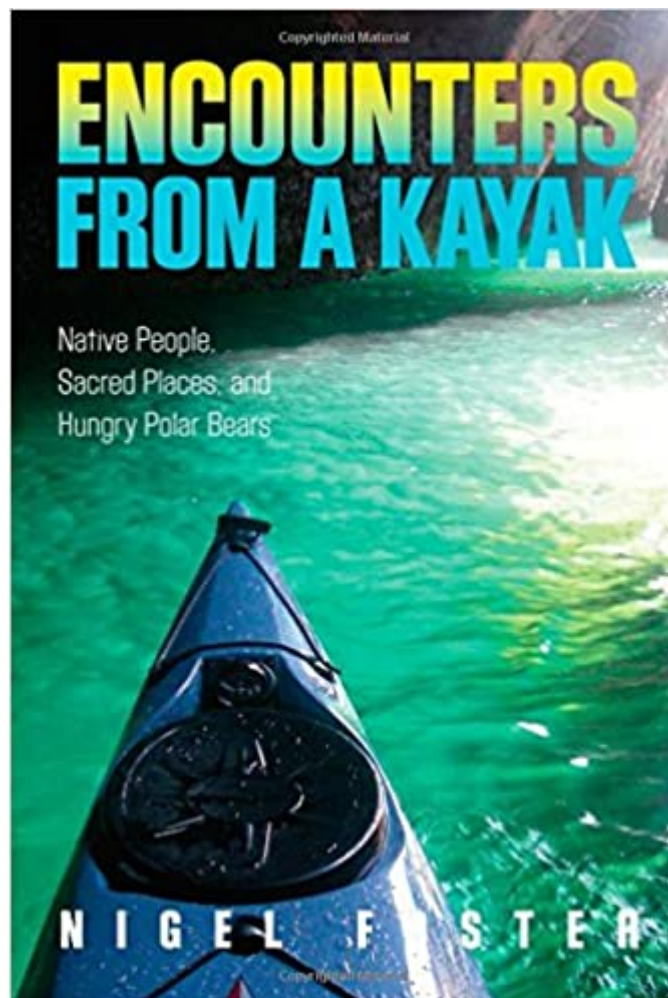




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# Encounters From A Kayak: Native People, Sacred Places, And Hungry Polar Bears



## Synopsis

What makes travel special? Perhaps the chill realization that a polar bear's eyes are fixed on you. Maybe it is the chance meeting with a man who buries sharks in a beach, only to dig them up months later, not out of morbid curiosity, but for food. Perhaps it is the undulating wing-beat of a dark shell-less gastropod in the canal of a 17th Century French sea port, or the criminal history of a rusting ship with a tree growing from its hold. Encounters in a Kayak brings the reader along on the magical experiences that surround sea kayaking. It's about the animals, people, and special places around the globe that have grabbed the attention of renowned kayaker and writer Nigel Foster. His irrepressible curiosity drives him to tease out the unexpected stories hidden behind his subjects. These nuggets from around the world are bound together by water and a centuries-old form of sea travel: kayak. The result is a book of broad appeal for those interested in kayaking, traveling, and adventure.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What makes traveling in the outdoors special? Perhaps the chill realization that a polar bear's eyes are fixed on you. Maybe it's the chance meeting with a man who buries sharks in a beach, only to dig them up months later, not out of morbid curiosity, but for food. Perhaps it's the undulating wing-beat of a dark, shell-less gastropod in the canal of a seventeenth-century French seaport, or the criminal history of a rusting ship with a tree growing from its hold. Encounters from a Kayak celebrates the magical experiences that surround sea kayaking. It's about the animals, people, and special places around the globe that have

grabbed the attention of renowned kayaker and writer Nigel Foster. His irrepressible curiosity drives him to tease out the unexpected stories hidden behind his subjects. These nuggets from around the world are bound together by water and a centuries-old form of sea travel: kayaking.

World-renowned sea kayaker and adventurer Nigel Foster writes regularly for PaddleWorld and Ocean Paddler magazines and has been published in many other outdoor journals. He gives slide presentations around the world about his kayak expeditions and teaches at sea kayaking symposia. Nigel blogs through his website [nigelkayaks.com](http://nigelkayaks.com). He's also the author of several kayaking instructional books and guidebooks. He lives in Seattle, Washington.

OK book, doesn't really keep you on the edge of your seat but each chapter really is it's own story. I read about half the book before moving on to something more exciting. However, several times I have gone back to read one more chapter between other books.

Anyone who has ever paddled will love this book. Anyone who has ever travelled will love this book, anyone who wants to know about the world we live in and the people that make it up will love this book. Nigel Foster, a kayaking legend, has woven a series of essays together that captures the spirit of adventure, the soul of the people and the land and the unmistakable call of the sea. It is education, funny and captivating. I highly recommend it.

Fascinating adventures! This is a interesting and fun book. The pictures add to the narrative and are beautiful!

Excellent adventure by noted authority... He put me in places I would have enjoyed as a younger explorer...the wonderful world of sea Kayaking

A very nice collection of small stories from sea kayaking trips. Read it in your tent on your Kindle when it is raining.

Nigel writes so that you can feel what it might be like to do the incredible things that he has done. Priceless...

I love reading adventure and travel books, and especially anything about venturing off in kayaks. So

when I learned of "Encounters From a Kayak", I was naturally drawn to owning it. I settled out a few days later by kayak to camp on the log-strewn beaches of the Washington coast. The next morning, I embedded myself on a sunny gravel beach and began reading. The first few chapters revealed that Nigel writes with the flair of one who has travelled not to claim new ground, but to truly experience remote water-logged corners of our world with humble curiosity and the heart of a true explorer. Often, writers who have made many far-flung or risky expeditions write in a way that seems egocentric and intended to impress, but none of that exists here. With keen eyes for detail, an obvious warm respect for 'local' people and a healthy infusion of dry English wit, Nigel's stories are great teachers as well as entertaining. He keeps good company in his travels, which include intrepid wife Kristen, who in one hairy encounter that could have gone very wrong, manages to shoo off a predatory Polar Bear with a strangely Victorian yet effective exclamation "Bear, be Gone!!" Sidebars and photos throughout the chapters offer explanations, insights and further anecdotes that inform and punctuate the narrative stories. I enjoy that the book is separated into three sections: Animals, People and Places, so one can choose what kind of story to enjoy next. You will undoubtedly read them all, as curiosity makes one want to learn what adventures lie in the pages just ahead. Go ahead, dust off your gear, pack a meal and slip your imagination into the waves. Take this book along to complete any outing of armchair adventure, as once it captures your spirit for the world beyond, you'll be hooked. Makes a great gift to any traveller or kayaker you know.

My husband spotted this book in the library's new book section and knew I would love it. He's good at that kind of thing - and was 100% correct. I've shared a few of my own kayaking adventures in *One Woman + One Kayak = Bliss*, as well as woven them into the story in *Moving On*, but Mr. Foster's adventures humble my own. He has traveled the world and the seas on a kayak, meeting interesting native characters and experiencing peak encounters with birds and wildlife. My own favorite was his story of being followed by a polar bear - no doubt frightening in the extreme at the time, but a great story in retrospect! I used to be quite content with my river and lake kayaking - but now I am inspired to travel more widely and explore farther horizons in a kayak. Hopefully, Mr. Foster will also be inspired to share even more stories with us in the future - as I doubt he has even begun to tell us all of his adventures!

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